

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 31, 1898, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks, May 31st., 1898. My dear Alec:

I have taken large paper because it happens to be all that I have up here but I don't believe I have enough facts or sense to fill the sheet with.

I have been working pretty steadily all day on papers bearing on Papa's connection with the Deaf and am discouraged. There seems to be so much material and so little to glean from it. I am sure that you have a lot of material which you have on a card catalogue. I will telegraph you tomorrow to ask you to let me have it. Mamma and I thought that we might prepare that part of our biography of Papa for presentation at Department 16 in connection with the Clarke School exhibit. If you can't take it well and good we will at least have had it prepared for our book. But I would like your catalogue as soon as possible. Please send it to me. I begin to think that writing to you is much like praying to the Lord. I am really sure that you are interested and like me to write you but I don't get much more evident reply! —

Elsie is brighter today in spite of a headache and says she does not want to leave me. I am not sure how much arises from a sneaking desire to stay within reach of him but it is nice of her to say so. Still I think she better go for a few days. I wish I knew how to place her in the way of meeting wealthy and nice young men.

Now I have come to the end of all I had to say. It continues cool here, the thermometer was at 55 early this morning and 72 or 3 during the hottest part of the day, I was surprised that it was so high for I was cold and wanted the windows shut.

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There is a very able letter from Henry Norman to the London 2 Daily Chronicle giving his impressions of the condition of our policy. He says we are drifting, that no one had an idea what we were coming to when war began and we don't know now what we will do — He said — what seems to me profoundly true, that every thoughtful American today realizes that the President saved us from what would have been a fatal blunder, namely recognition of Cuban belligerency. We were forced by England to take the Philippines, before that no one here ever thought of them, between April 30 and May 1 we went through a revolution, before that we had not thought of the islands had no desire for them, after that we were proud of their possession and would not give them up. We had no thought of Porto Rico now we will take it and keep it. Now comes the question. Have we embarked on a new period of expansion or will we give up our newly acquired possessions and return to our old policy of isolation. He says no one can tell, but, sending 20,000 soldiers and the Monterey to the Philippines doesn't look like giving it up.

Well I have padded my letter, hope you like the padding.

Write me,

Ever yours, Mabel. I have written every day.